

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0228-03
Bill No.: HCS for HB 67
Subject: Elections
Type: Original
Date: April 8, 2015

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions related to elections.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
General Revenue	(\$37,400)		
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$37,400)	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 5 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

☐ Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials at the **Office of the Secretary of State** assume this proposal allows individuals discharged from the military or separated from employment after the deadline to register to vote, to register to vote up to 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election. Emergency workers would be added as a qualified individual to use the absentee voting process as established in law; they could vote absentee in person, mail, fax, or electronically. The bill also specifies a process for the local election authorities to use their existing voting equipment for in-person absentee voting. Programming changes would need to be made with the centralized voter registration database and military portal to incorporate these new categories of absentee voters with an estimated one-time cost of \$22,000.

This proposal would also allow military and overseas voters to vote in all elections involving federal office, statewide office, statewide legislative office, or statewide initiatives. To meet these requirements, additional programming changes would need to be made to the centralized voter registration database and military portal to incorporate these new categories of voters with an estimated one-time cost of \$15,400.

SOS estimates a total cost of \$37,400 for programming changes that would need to be made to the centralized voter registration database and military portal.

Officials at the **Platte County Board of Election Commission** assumes up to \$6,500 in 2015 to purchase wireless hotspots and up to \$1,300 per election for data. This cost reflects the need for real time poll book (Poll Pad) updates that could be required by 115.135 (4). Loading election data represents a significant investment in staff time and is a task that is done several days before this legislation proposes to close registration for qualified service members. At that point the Poll Pads will be sealed and won't be opened again until election judges set them up on election day. Without network access, newly registered voters will not be seen included in the list of eligible voters.

Oversight assumes the number of individuals that would qualify under this proposal would be minimal; therefore, the local election authorities could absorb any costs with existing resources.

Officials at the **St. Louis County Board of Election Commission** and the **Callaway County Clerk's Office** each assume no fiscal impact from this proposal to their respective organizations.

In response to a previous version, officials at the **Jackson County Board of Election Commission**, the **Lincoln County Clerk's Office**, and **Buchanan County Clerk's Office** each assumed no fiscal impact from this proposal to their respective organizations.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials at the following boards of election commission: Kansas City Board of Election Commission, St. Louis City Board of Election Commission, and the Clay County Board of Election Commission did not respond to **Oversight's** request for fiscal impact.

Officials at the following counties: Andrew, Atchison, Audrain, Barry, Bollinger, Boone, Camden, Cape Girardeau, Carroll, Cass, Clay, Cole, Cooper, DeKalb, Dent, Franklin, Greene, Holt, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Laclede, Lawrence, Marion, McDonald, Miller, Moniteau, Monroe, Montgomery, New Madrid, Nodaway, Ozark, Perry, Pettis, Phelps, Platte, Pulaski, Scott, Shelby, St. Charles, St. Louis, St. Francois, Taney, Warren, Wayne and Worth did not respond to **Oversight's** request for fiscal impact.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2016 (10 Mo.)	FY 2017	FY 2018
GENERAL REVENUE			
Costs - Secretary of State - centralized voter registration database and military portal programming changes (one-time)	<u>(\$37,400)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>(\$37,400)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2016 (10 Mo.)	FY 2017	FY 2018
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill changes the laws regarding elections. In its main provisions, the bill:

Allows a person who is in the federal service or who is a covered voter as specified in the bill who has been discharged from military service, has returned from a military deployment or

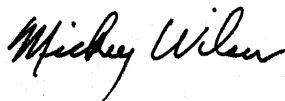
FISCAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

activation, or has separated from employment outside of the United States after the specified deadline to register to vote in person before the election authority if he or she is otherwise qualified until 5:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to an election if he or she can show sufficient documentation of qualifying for late registration, adds provisions regarding voting machines to reflect current technology, allows an emergency worker as specified in the bill to request an absentee ballot via mail, facsimile, or electronic transmission until 5:00 p.m. on the Monday immediately prior to an election. In order to be counted, an absentee ballots must be received by the close of the polls on election day, and makes procedural changes regarding the counting of absentee ballots to conform with current practice and allows absentee ballots cast in person to be counted without additional steps involving ballot envelopes.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Platte County Board of Election Commissions
Lincoln County Clerk's Office
Buchanan County Clerk's Office
St. Louis County Board of Election Commissions
Office of the Secretary of State
Callaway County Clerk's Office



Mickey Wilson, CPA
Director
April 8, 2015

Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
April 8, 2015